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1. (Currently Amended) A thumb splint comprising:

a thumb stabilizing component for securing the thumb of the user to the adjacent index finger permitting the thumb to move toward the index finger but limiting movement of the thumb away from the index finger to a predetermined angle said thumb stabilizing component comprising:

a thumb receiving section for receiving a thumb of a user;

an index finger receiving section for receiving an index finger of a user;

B/ a non-extendable, flexible connector extending between and secured to the thumb section and the index finger section for ~~limiting abduction~~ permitting the thumb and index finger to move towards one another, but limiting the movement of the index finger away from the thumb to beyond a predetermined value; and

a positioning component for securing the thumb stabilizing component in proper position on the hand of the user, said positioning component comprising an elongated strap having a first end secured to said thumb stabilizing component at a point between said thumb receiving section and said index finger receiving section and a second end releasably securable to said first end of said strap or to said stabilizing component for keeping the stabilizing component firmly and operatively positioned on the hand of the user.

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Amended) A thumb splint as defined in claim 1, said strap

having a length sufficient to extend from said stabilizing component, along the palm of the hand of the user, to and around the wrist and along the backside of the hand.

B2 6. (Currently Amended) A thumb splint as defined in claim 21, said thumb stabilizing component and said positioning component being integral and formed of a single length of polyester or nylon or other suitable fabric webbing.

7. (Previously Amended) A thumb splint as defined in claim 1, wherein said splint is incorporated into a glove or mitt.

B3 8. (Currently Amended) A thumb splint, comprising:  
a thumb receiving section for receiving a thumb of a user;  
an index finger receiving section for receiving an index finger of a user;  
a non-extendable, flexible connector extending between and secured to the thumb receiving section and the index finger receiving section for limiting abduction of the thumb to a predetermined value; and  
an elongated strap secured to the index finger receiving section for keeping the thumb and index finger receiving sections operatively and firmly positioned on the index finger and thumb, respectively.

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9. (Currently Amended) The splint as claimed in claim 8, wherein said splint ~~are~~is made from one continuous thin and light weight ribbon of material.

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10. (Original) The splint as claimed in claim 9, wherein said material is polyester or nylon or other suitable webbing.

11. (Original) The splint as claimed in claim 8, said thumb receiving section having a surface for engaging a substantial portion of the distal side, relative to the index finger, of the proximal phalange of the thumb.

12. (Original) The splint as claimed in claim 8, wherein said index finger receiving section fits around the base of the proximal phalange of the index finger.

13. (Original) The splint as claimed in claim 8, wherein said connector is of a length that the thumb can move and extend back freely, but not hyper-extend or abduct the thumb away from the base of the index finger beyond 100 degrees to a position where a wearer could injure the thumb.

14. (Original) The splint as claimed in claim 8, wherein said securing strap attached to the index finger receiving section at the point where said index finger receiving

section connects with the connector to hold the receiving sections down on the fingers, wrapped across the hand and the wrist to secure said splint.

15. (Original) A thumb splint, comprising:

one continuous thin and light weight ribbon of polyester or nylon material formed to define:

a thumb receiving section for receiving a thumb of a user, said thumb receiving section having a surface for engaging a substantial portion of the distal side, relative to the index finger, of the proximal phalange of the thumb;

an index finger receiving section for receiving an index finger of a user, said index finger receiving section fits around the base of the proximal phalange of the index finger;

a non-extendable, flexible connector extending between and secured to the thumb receiving section and the index finger receiving section for limiting abduction of the thumb to a predetermined value, said connector is of a length that the thumb can move and extend back freely, but not hyper-extend or abduct the thumb away from the base of the index finger beyond 100 degrees to a position where a wearer could injure the thumb; and

an elongated strap secured to the index finger receiving section for keeping the thumb and index finger receiving sections operatively positioned on the index finger and thumb, respectively; said securing strap being attached to the index finger receiving section at the point where said index finger receiving section connects with the connector to hold the receiving sections down on the fingers, wrapped across the hand and the wrist to secure said splint.